

REMARKS

Claims 14-21 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 14-21 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 14, 18, 19, 20 and 21 were amended. Accordingly, claims 14-21 are at issue in the above-identified application.

Objection To Specification

Attached please find a replacement abstract, per the Examiner's request.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims

Claims 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims & 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

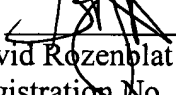
Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *McDevitt* (U.S. Patent No. 6,688,798). Claims 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *McDevitt*. Claims 16 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *McDevitt* in view of *Rivin* (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0185624). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Claim 14 recites a method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions comprising a support member having a first curved flange end connector and forming a first hold for receiving a pin, a plate assembly having at least one connection plate forming a second hole, and a second curved flange end connector, wherein the curvature of the first curved flange end connector generally matches the curvature of the second curved flange end connector, and securing the first curved flange end connector to the second

curved flange end connector such that the support member is allowed to rotate relative to the plate assembly about the first and second curved flange end connectors. None of the above cited references teach or disclose a support member having a first curved flange end connector and forming a first hole for receiving a pin, a plate assembly having at least one connection plate forming a second hole, and a second curved flange end connector, wherein the curvature of the first curved flange end connector generally matches the curvature of the second curved flange end connector. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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